

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02 OMB-01 /086 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 121

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION OCTOBER 6

REF: BEIRUT 7858

1. SUMMARY. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS NEGOTIATIONS AND RUMORS OF
NEGOTIATIONS, BUT LACK OF PROGRESS APPEARS TO MAKE FURTHER
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MAJOR MILITARY ACTION PROBABLE. MUSEUM CROSSPOINT REMAINS

CLOSED AND AL PEACE FORCES MAY HAVE PULLED BACK FROM AREA. PSP DECLARES THE SHOUF A MILITARY ZONE. LEFTISTS EXPRESS FEARS OF LARGE-SCALE SYRIAN OPERATION IN SOUTH. ALLEGED ATROCITIES AT SALIMA DENOUNCED BY EDDE WHO ASKS CHRISTIAN LEADERS IF THEY CAN PROTECT CHRISTIAN MINORITIES IN CASE OF DRUZE REPRISALS. GROUND SITUATION STABLE WITH LIMITED SHELLING AND MINOR CLASHES AS SYRIA'S NEXT MOVE AWAITED. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL ENDEAVORS CONTINUE. HOPES FOR NEGOTIATION PROGRESS PERSIST, BUT MOST LEBANESE SKEPTICAL ANY BUT MILITARY SOLUTION NOW POSSIBLE. EMBASSY SOURCE QUOTES AKKAR DEPUTY SULEIMAN AL ALI, WHO CONFERRED WITH ASSAD IN DAMASCUS OVER WEEKEND, THAT SYRIA DETERMINED PURSUE ITS MILITARY COURSE AND WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE ALL THE MOUNTAINS, JEZZINE AND AREAS UP TO SIDON. DEPUTY ALI QUOTED THAT, "PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS FULL SUPPORT OF THE SYRIANS AND HIS SILENCE IS AGREED UPON WITH THEM" CONSERVATIVE MUSLIMS IN ADDITION TO LEFTISTS INCREASINGLY DISSATISFIED WITH SARKIS' SILENCE ON SYRIAN/CHRISTIAN ADVANCE. AL-ANWAR SAYS KHOLI, WHO MET OCT 5 WITH ARAFAT AND ABU IYAD, STILL ATTEMPTING SET UP ARAFAT/SARKIS MEETING. JOURNAL CLAIMS ARAFAT WILL MEET ASSAD IN DAMASCUS WITHIN TWO DAYS. AS-SAFIR SAYS SYRIAN GENERAL NAJI JAMIL AND AS YET UNNAMED PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE WILL MEET IN TWO DAYS. AL MOHARRIR SAYS SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE MEETING MAY OCCUR BEFORE OCT 18 ARAB SUMMIT. JOURNAL SAYS NATIONAL MMEMENT LEADERSHIP, WHICH MET OCT 5, IS DISCUSSING WHAT GUARANTEES DAMASCUS CAN FURNISH FOR SAFETY AND FUTURE OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. LOCAL PRESS NOTES CONTINUED PRESENCE IN DAMASCUS OF ARAFAT ADVISER HANI EL-HASAN AND ARRIVAL IN SYRIAN CAPITAL OCT 5 OF KATAEB DELEGATION AND JORDANIAN PQ MOUDAR BADRAN. AL-KIFAH AL-ARABI SEES BADRAN VISIT AS EVIDENCE "SERIOUS DEBATE" TO SETTLE LEBANESE CRISIS.

3. MUSEUM CROSSPOINT STILL CLOSED. MURABITUN COMMAND ISSUED STATEMENT THAT, CONTRARY TO RUMOR, IT INTENDS KEEP CROSSPOINT CLOSED IN INTEREST PUBLIC SAFETY. CONFIDENTIAL

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INTENSE SHELLING, MAINLY FROM RIGHTISTS, HAS VIRTUALLY CLOSED CROSSPOINT FOR PAST FIVE DAYS. SPECIAL CROSSING PERMITS AVAILABLE BUT DO NOT ASSURE SAFETY. HASAN SABRI KHOLI MEETING WITH SARKIS ABORTED OCT 5 DUE KHOLI INABILITY CROSS INTO EAST BEIRUT. OTHERS TURNED BACK AT MUSEUM INCLUDED MINISTER ADIL OSSEIRAN, DRUZE SHAYKH AL-AQL AND ICRC REPRESENTATIVE. WE NOT CLEAR IF AL FORCES STILL AT MUSEUM CROSSPOINT. VOICE OF

LEBANON QUOTES AL SPOKESMAN THAT CHECKPOINT WILL OPEN OCT 6 UNDER AL SUPERVISION, BUT AS SAFIR SAYS AL COMMAND IS RECONSIDERING AL PRESENCE IN MUSEUM AREA AND HAS GIVEN RIGHTISTS 48 HOURS TO STOP SHELLING OR AL FORCES WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM AREA. KHOLI SCHEDULED DISCUSS ROAD CLOSING OCT 6 WITH MURABITUN LEADERSHIP.

4. PSP CREATES "MILITARY ZONE". JUNBLATT'S PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY ISSUED STATEMENT FORBIDDING "CITIZENS OF THE PATRIOTIC SECTORS" TO GO TO REGIONS "UNDER SYRIAN AND ISOLATIONIST OCCUPATION ON PAIN OF MILITARY SANCTIONS." L'ORIENT-LE JOUR COMMENTS THAT COMMUNIQUE SEEMS IN SUPPORT OF MUSEUM CROSSPOINT CLOSING, BUT SAYS IT COULD CONCERN ENTRY TO BEKAA AS WELL. PSP COMMUNIQUE DESIGNATES SHOUF A MILITARY ZONE FROM KAHR SHIMA TO BARUK MOUNTAINS. AL MOHARRIR REPORTS LEFTIST FEARS OF LARGE-SCALE SYRIAN MILITARY OPERATION IN JEZZINE AREA, PARTICULARLY SINCE GENERAL NAJI JAMIL AND OTHER SYRIAN OFFICERS INVOLVED LEBANON MET THERE ON OCT 5 WITH ARMY COMMANDER JEAN KHOURI AND LOCAL NLP CHIEF ABU AL-LAYL.

5. MORE ON ALLEGED MASSACRES. EDDE ASKED CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP IF IT ABLE PROTECT CHRISTIAN MINORITIES IF VENGEANCE FOR METN ACTS SPREADS TO ALEY, THE SHUF AND WADI EL-TAIN, AND SAID HE COUNTING ON WISDOM OF DRUZE CHIEFS TO AVOID SUCH VENGEANCE. AL MOHARRIR SAYS DRUZE LEADERSHIP DENIES STATEMENT, INCLUDING CALL TO RESTRAINT, ASCRIBED TO IT BY PRESS OCT 5. EMBASSY SOURCE SAYS DRUZE SHAYKH AL-AQL HAS PROPOSAL FROM DRUZE SHAYKS FOR SARKIS TO END FIGHTING IN ALEY AND SHUF; CALLING FOR REPLACEMENT OF ALL ARMED GROUPS BY

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SYRIANS AND LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS. SINCE MANY VANGUARDS ARE SHIITES, PLAN WOULD AVOID CHRISTIAN/ DRUZE CONFRONTATION.

6. GROUND SITUATION. MOUNTAIN FRONT STABLE, THOUGH CHRISTIANS CONTINUE SHELL ALEY AND CLASHES REPORTED AT DAHR EL-WAHCH, QURTBAWI AND GALERIE KHAYRALLAH. AL MOHARRIR SAYS SYRIANS SHELLLED BHAMDUN OCT 5. JOURNAL CLAIMS CONTINUED SYRIAN TROOP REINFORCEMENTS IN TRIPOLI AREA WHERE SHELLING CONTINUES. IN BEIRUT, HEAVY SPORADIC SHELLING AND LIMITED CLASHES CONTINUE ON CONFRONTATION LINE. SHELLING OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS EAST AND WEST CONTINUES AT INTERVALS. COMBINED PALESTINIAN/LAA/NM PATROLS IN WEST BEIRUT HAVE NOTICEABLY REDUCED ARMED MEN IN STREETS SINCE OCT 2. IN SOUTHEAST SUBURBS,

CLASHES CONTINUE ON TRADITIONAL AXIS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07875
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760377-0190
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761078/aaaacpws.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 7858
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION OCTOBER 6
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006